



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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Potential Sites available for public/private efforts...

COUNCIL PREZ SILVERMAN URGES ALL-OUT EFFORT TO USE COUNTY-OWNED LAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In speech to Annual Affordable Housing Conference

Council President Steve Silverman today proposed a major initiative to use land already owned by the County to construct affordable housing, in partnership with private and non-profit developers.

Speaking to the Eleventh Annual Affordable Housing Conference, Silverman noted the 11 percent increase in apartment rents for new tenants in the County and the increasing need for people who work in Montgomery County to live elsewhere, creating even more traffic congestion.

"If politics is the art of the possible, then let's expand the possibilities," said Silverman. "One place to find the land for affordable housing is us – the County owns thousands of pieces of land."

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“We should partner with the Housing Opportunities Commission, the Montgomery Housing Partnership, Victory Housing, and others to create more affordable housing for County residents.

“Over the next six months, let’s identify the best sites and the best partners and get moving on our commitment to create new housing.

“Issues will always arise about whether a particular site is appropriate – and that’s as it should be. But we must make the hard choices in favor of increasing our affordable housing stock.”

Next week, the Council will take final action on the Potomac Master Plan which, as amended, allows for three former public school sites to be used to construct affordable housing.

The Montgomery County Council has boosted its Housing Initiative Fund from \$2.7 million annually to \$15 million over the past three years. It has set a goal of creating over 1100 new affordable housing units this year, while working to preserve existing affordable units and requiring developers to dedicate 12 percent of units in developments of 50 units or more as “moderately priced dwelling units.”

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